

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /022 W

----- 032206

R 211550Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5116

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0454

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (HUNTER, ROBERT; BATES, ROBERT)

SUBJ: STAFFDEL HUNTER/BATES

REF: STATE 087633

1. FOUR-DAY VISIT OF STAFFDELS ROBERT HUNTER AND ROBERT BATES TO SOUTH AFRICA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. EMBASSY PRETORIA/CAPE TOWN AND CONGENS DURBAN AND JOHANNESBURG MANAGED TO CONSTRUCT FULL PROGRAMS FOR STAFFDEL DESPITE DISRUPTIONS OF 4-DAY EASTER WEEKEND. HUNTER-BATES WERE ABLE TO SEE MOST INDIVIDUALS WHO THEY HAD INDICATED IN REFTEL THEY WERE INTERESTED IN CONTACTING.

2. ON ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY STAFFDEL TOLD US THAT SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD AGREED TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR THEM WITH SAG REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF WHITE ESTABLISHMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, LIST THEY PROVIDED IN REFTEL, AND THEREFORE PROGRAM ARRANGED BY MISSION, FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON BLACK AND WHITE LIBERAL ELEMENTS. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED TO STAFFDEL THAT ONLY INDICATION OF SAG INTEREST IN THEIR VISIT HAD BEEN PHONE CALL TO DCM DAY BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INFORMATION INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IF NECESSARY IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS OR ARRANGING AIRPORT PROTOCOL BEFORE BEGINNING HOLIDAY NEXT DAY. AS MISSION HAD BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN CONTACTING

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INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED REFTEL AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT OTHER

APPOINTMENTS STAFFDEL MIGHT WANT, OFFER WAS DECLINED.  
SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO LINE UP MEETINGS WITH ESTABLISHMENT  
FIGURES AFTER HUNTER-BATES ARRIVAL NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL  
BECAUSE OF LONG WEEKEND. HOWEVER, IN CAPE TOWN THEY DID  
MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AFTERNOON OF APRIL 19. EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO MODIFY BATES  
TRAVEL PLANS AT HIS REQUEST TO ALLOW BRIEF STOPOVER IN  
KIMBERLY WHERE HE MET WITH ROBERT SOBUKWE.

3. WHILE IN CAPE TOWN HUNTER-BATES AND ACCOMPANYING EMBASSY  
OFFICER WERE TAILED FOR MOST OF DAY BY INDIVIDUALS WE PRESUME  
TO BE MEMBERS OF SECURITY POLICE. TAIL WAS FIRST SPOTTED  
OUTSIDE OF HOME OF CAPE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN  
INSTITUTE REV. THEO KOTZE.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN SAG'S PAST PRACTICE, IT WOULD HAVE  
SEEMED LOGICAL THAT, ONCE HAVING GRANTED VISAS TO HUNTER  
AND BATES, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION WOULD HAVE DONE EVERYTHING  
WITHIN THEIR POWER TO PROVIDE PROGRAM FAVORABLE TO SAG  
INTERESTS FOR THEM WHILE IN COUNTRY. IT POSSIBLE THAT  
OVERTAXING OF DEPT OF INFORMATION AND DFA BY VORSTER'S  
TRIP TO ISRAEL, GENERAL LAXITY PROMPTED BY EASTER WEEK  
HOLIDAYS, OR POOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SA EMBASSY IN  
WASHINGTON AND PRETORIA LED TO A BUREAUCRATIC SNAFU.  
HUNTER-BATES EXPRESSED TO US, HOWEVER, THEORY THAT IT WAS  
CONSCIOUS POLICY OF SAG TO SNUB THEM WHILE HERE. THEY  
POINTED TO SAG'S ABILITY TO LAY ON SECURITY POLICE  
SURVEILLANCE EFFICIENTLY, IF HEAVY-HANDEDLY, AS EVIDENCE  
THAT IF GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN  
PROGRAMMING IT COULD HAVE BEEN.  
BOWDLER

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